

ATTN: BOX PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

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Serial No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED

PCT/JP00/00977, filed February 21, 2000

Filed: June 27, 2000

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING HYDROGENATED ESTER, HYDROGENATING CATALYST USED THEREFOR AND
PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE CATALYSTPRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the above-mentioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

- Claim 5, line 2, please delete "any of claims 2-4" and insert therefor --claim 2--.
- Claim 6, line 2, please delete "any of claims 2-5" and insert therefor --claim 2--.
- Claim 7, line 2, please delete "any of claims 2-6" and insert therefor --claim 2--.
- Claim 8, line 2, please delete "any of claims 2-7" and insert therefor --claim 2--.
- Claim 9, line 2, please delete "any of claims 2-8" and insert therefor --claim 2--.
- Claim 12, line 2, please delete "claim 10 or 11" and insert therefor --claim 11--.
- Claim 13, line 2, please delete "any of claims 10-12" and insert therefor --claim 10--.
- Claim 14, line 2, please delete "any of claims 2-13" and insert therefor --claim 2--.
- Claim 17, line 2, please delete "claim 15 or 16" and insert therefor --claim 15--.
- Claim 19, line 4, please delete "claim 15 or 16" and insert therefor --claim 15--.
- Claim 20, line 10, please delete "claim 15 or 16" and insert therefor --claim 15--.

Please delete Claims 21, 22 and 23.

Please insert the following new Claims:

24. A process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 19, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out at a reaction temperature in the range of 0° to 200°C.
25. A process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 20, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out